Remarks

In response to the Final Office Action dated May 9, 2005, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration based on the above claim amendments and the following remarks. The Amendments to the Claims (above) are based on the telephonic interview of June 17, 2005 between the undersigned representative for the Applicant and the Examiner. In the interview, an agreement was reached with respect to features contained in pending claim 11, which are not disclosed in the cited references of record (see Applicant's Substance of the Interview, below).

In the present application, claim 1 has been amended and claims 5, 11, and 13-22 have been canceled. Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of now canceled claims 5 and 11. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-22 are currently pending in the present application. Claims 1-13 and 16-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sheridan et al. (U.S. 6,725,032, hereinafter "Sheridan") in view of Lozano et al. (U.S. 5,982,869, hereinafter "Lozano"). Claims 14-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sheridan in view of Lozano, and further in view of Amin et al. (U.S. 5,845,207, hereinafter "Amin").

Applicant's Statement of the Substance of the Interview

In the telephonic interview with the Examiner on June 17, 2005, the undersigned representative for the Applicant submits that claims 1-22 were discussed in view of the previously cited references Sheridan and Lozano. In the interview, the undersigned representative pointed out the differences contained in claim 11 (which includes the features of claims 1 and 5) over Sheridan and Lozano. Specifically, it was pointed out that neither Sheridan nor Lozano disclosed the feature of adding NPA-NXX data to input-formatted data according to a format of the input-formatted data. The Examiner acknowledged that the cited references did

not disclose the aforementioned feature. A discussion was also held regarding amending the pending claims to incorporate the subject matter contained in the Applicant's figures 3-8.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-13 and 16-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sheridan in view of Lozano. As noted above, claims 5, 11, 13, and 16-22 have been canceled. The rejection of the remaining claims is respectfully traversed.

Amended independent claim 1 specifies a method of formatting data for populating a telecommunications switch. The method includes downloading output-formatted data from the switch, converting the output-formatted data to input-formatted data acceptable for input to the switch, and editing the input-formatted data. The step of editing the input-formatted data includes adding new data to the input-formatted data according to a format of the input-formatted data, whereby the new data is NPA-NXX data. The method further includes transmitting the input-formatted data to the switch and populating the switch with the input-formatted data.

In the Office Action, it is alleged that Lozano teaches adding "NPA-NXXX" [sic] data as new data to input formatted data according to the format of the input formatted data (See discussion of claims 5 and 11 on pages 4 and 5 of the Office Action). However, it is respectfully submitted that Lozano does not teach the aforementioned feature. In Lozano NPA, NXX, and NNX-XXXX data is mentioned in a discussion of telephone numbers conforming to the North American Numbering Plan ("NANP") which is used by switches to determine where to send telephone calls (i.e., call processing). See Col. 4, lines 10-42. Lozano further distinguishes call processing from routing, which is defined as the process of setting up physical communication paths between the different switches in a switch hierarchy. See Col. 4, lines 43-48. It is also alleged in the Office Action that Lozano teaches editing input formatted data by disclosing a

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CommSHIP 706 for managing switches 714-720, by adding, changing, or deleting routing data. See Col. 12, lines 11-25. Thus, the CommSHIP 706 disclosed by Lozano would not be utilized to add NPA-NXX data since this is call processing data and not routing data for setting up communication paths between switches. Since Lozano fails to teach, disclose, or suggest editing input-formatted data by adding NPA-NXX data, amended independent claim 1 is allowable over Lozano.

With respect to amended independent claim 1, none of the remaining cited references of record (Sheridan and Amin), alone or in combination, teach, disclose, or suggest each of the features specified in this claim. Therefore, claim 1 is allowable and the rejection of this claim should be withdrawn. Claims 2-4, 6-10, and 12 depend from amended independent claim 1, and are thus allowable for at least the same reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1 including the additional features recited therein. Therefore, the rejections of claims 2-4, 6-10, and 12 should also be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application is now in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this amendment, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to call the Applicant's attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: November 9, 2005
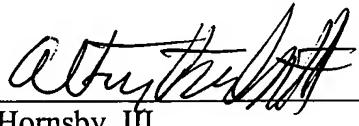
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